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Letter dated 28 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 28 July 2000 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Şafak **Göktürk**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 28 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 5 June 2000 (A/54/892-S/2000/539) and 10 July 2000 (A/54/937-S/2000/666) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative to the United Nations, which contains allegations of "violations of the airspace of the Republic" and "of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia".

It will be recalled that similar allegations of so-called "airspace and FIR violations" were rejected in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 6 June 2000 (A/54/911-S/2000/551). I wish to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever.

As stated in my previous letters, at the root of such allegations by the Greek Cypriot administration lies the deceitful and unacceptable pretence that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the entire island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This position is contrary to the realities on the island, namely the existence of two politically equal peoples and their respective sovereign states. The present Greek Cypriot allegations are undoubtedly designed to divert attention from its ongoing policy of escalation, which involves an intensive campaign of militarization.

In a letter addressed to you on 7 July 2000 (A/54/938-S/2000/688), President Denktaş drew attention to the most recent military procurements by the Greek Cypriot administration, including anti-tank missile systems and other military hardware, and underlined the need for the Security Council to urge the Greek Cypriot side to stop its arming frenzy. The Greek Cypriot administration is currently spending in excess of two million dollars a day on armaments, in line with the implementation of the joint military doctrine with Greece.

I would like to emphasize that the ongoing Greek Cypriot rearmament campaign is totally inconsistent with the current efforts to facilitate reconciliation between the two parties, and clearly threatens peace and stability in the region. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus trusts that all interested parties who wish to contribute to the efforts, in the context of the proximity talks in progress, towards preparing the ground for meaningful negotiations, will see to it that the Greek Cypriot administration abandons this policy of escalation and takes the necessary steps towards establishing bridges of trust and cooperation between the two states in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus